

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC

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MCEB WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT

CINCLANT

NSA FT MEADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJ: US USE OF NATO III SATELLITE

REF: USNATO 3908 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: US AND NATO REPS MET ON JULY 29, 1975 TO DISCUSS
SUBJECT. US REP DESCRIBED US PROBLEMS AND STATED THAT OUR PRESENT
REQUIREMENT IS USE OF A NATO III SATELLITE POSITIONED OVER EASTERN
PACIFIC AS EARLY AS CAN BE ARRANGED. THE GROUP IDENTIFIED FOUR
ALTERNATIVES WHICH US AND NATO EACH WILL EVALUATE. THE GROUP WILL
RECONVENE ON AUGUST 19, 1975 TO DEVELOP A JOINT PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT
FOR NATO JOINT C-E COMMITTEE (NJCEC) DECISION IN OCTOBER 1975.
GROUP AGREED THAT BOTH SCCPG/SCWG AND JOINT C-E WORKING GROUP
SHOULD CONSIDER PROPOSAL AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO NJCEC.

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END SUMMARY.

1. THE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT CONVENED AT NATO HQ ON
JULY 29, 1975 WITH CAPT. D. FISCHER, USN, AS PRINCIPAL US

REP. CHAIRMAN (LEHARDY, NICSMA) GENERALLY FOLLOWED AGENDA (REF A), BUT THE CHANGED US REQUIREMENTS (FROM THOSE GIVEN IN STATE 137534) PRESENTED AT MEETING BY US REP GREATLY REDUCED SCOPE OF DISCUSSION.

2. THE US REP REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE US DSCS SATELLITES NOW IN ORBIT AND PRESENTED AN OVERVIEW OF PLANNED PROCUREMENT AND LAUNCHES OF ADDITIONAL DSCS II SATELLITES. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE REQUIREMENTS THE US HAS FOR ITS NEXT GENERATION (DSCS III) SATELLITES AND DESCRIBED SOME OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY THEY WILL HAVE. U.S. INTRODUCTION FACILITATED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING BY ATTENDEES OF THE CURRENT US PROBLEMS. US REP IDENTIFIED THESE PROBLEMS AS IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A SATELLITE FOR EASTERN PACIFIC AND POTENTIAL NEED FOR SATELLITES TO FILL THE TIME-GAP BETWEEN DSCS II AND DSCS III PROGRAMS. HE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE US NOW SEEKS USE OF A NATO III SATELLITE FOR THE EASTERN PACIFIC AND THAT THE US INTENDS TO PROCURE ADDITIONAL DSCS II SATELLITES TO BRIDGE THE TIME-GAP PROBLEM.

3. NICSMA REP (COL HAYFORD, SAMSO) REPORTED THAT FIRST NATO SATELLITE (NATO III A) IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1976 LAUNCH. THE EARLIEST THAT THE SECOND SATELLITE (NATO III B) CAN BE LAUNCHED IS AUGUST 1976. THE REFURBISHED QUALIFICATION MODEL (NATO III C) COULD BE LAUNCHED IN LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977. HE ADVISED THE GROUP THAT HE REQUIRES AT LEAST SIX MONTHS' NOTICE IF NATO WANTS TO LAUNCH NATO III B IN AUGUST 1976. THE GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT THIS SCHEDULE NECESSITATED A DECISION BY THE NATO JOINT C-3 COMMITTEE (NJCEC) AT ITS OCTOBER 1975 MEETING.

4. SEVERAL ATTENDEES MADE COMMENTS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO THE US REQUEST BUT PRESENTED MILD RESERVATIONS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO BE GROUNDWORK FOR NATO'S DEMAND FOR "QUO " TO OFFSET THE "QUID". THE SHAPE REP KBRIGADIER JACKSON) SHARPENED THE DISCUSSION WHEN HE PROPOSED THAT THE US TAKE NATO III A (THE FIRST SATELLITE). HE REMINDED THE GROUP THAT NATO CANNOT MAKE FULL USE OF THE NATO III SATELLITES UNTIL THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PHASE III GROUND TERMINAL PROJECT IS COMPLETED, AND HE STATED THAT THE CHANNELS SHAPE NOW HAS OVER THE US DSCS II SATELLITE SATISFY CURRENT REQUIREMENTS. THE SACLANC REP (WING CMDR. COLE) ADVANCED THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE RESERVATION TO THIS PROPOSAL, COMMENTING THAT NATO MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL A NATO SATELLITE IS POSITIONED OVER THE ATLANTIC.

5. THE GROUP SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED FOUR ALTERNATIVES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. NATO LAUNCHES AND CHECKS OUT NATO III A, TURNING IT OVER FOR US USE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC ABOUT APRIL 1976.

B. NATO LAUNCHES AND CHECKS OUT NATO III B, TURNING IT OVER FOR US USE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC ABOUT OCTOBER 1976.

C. NATO LAUNCHES AND CHECKS OUT NATO III C, TURNING IT OVER FOR US USE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC ABOUT JANUARY 1977.

D. NATO LAUNCHES AND CHECKS OUT NATO III A, PLACES IT OVER ATLANTIC TO SATISFY US AND NATO REQUIREMENTS; US MOVES PRESENT DSCS II SATELLITE FROM ATLANTIC TO EASTERN PACIFIC. FYI. US REP INFORMED GROUP THAT LAST TWO ALTERNATIVES ARE FEASIBLE BUT OF LEAST INTEREST TO THE US. END FYI.

6. FOR NEXT STEP, GROUP AGREED THAT US AND NATO (LED BY NICSMA) WILL EACH DEVELOP PAPERS EVALUATING THE FOUR ALTERNATIVES. THE GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN AT NATO HQ ON AUGUSTS 19-20, 1975 TO DEVELOP JOINT PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT TO CHAIRMAN, NICS POLICY COMMITTEE. IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH US AND NATO WOULD STRIVE TO EXCHANGE THEIR PAPERS BEFORE THIS MEETING, AND THAT EACH WOULD INFORM THE OTHER THROUGH USNATO AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE OF ANY FIRM PRINCIPLES OR CONSTRAINTS WHICH THE JOINT PROPOSAL MUST ACCOMMODATE. ALSO, THE GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT THE SCCPG/SCWG WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL, AND IT AGREED THAT THE JOINT C-E WORKING GROUP SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROPOSAL SO THAT NATIONAL REPS TO THE NJCEC CAN BE PREPARED TO MAKE A DECISION AT THE OCTOBER 1975 MEETING. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. COMMENT. THERE IS A STRONG FEELING AMONG ELEMENTS OF MIS, SHAPE, NICSMA, AND UK MOD THAT COLLECTIVELY WE MUST RATIONALIZE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, IF NOT THROUGH OUTRIGHT SHARING OF RESOURCES, AT LEAST THROUGH CAREFULLY COORDINATED PROGRAMS. WE AT USNATO SEE THIS RATIONALIZATION AS A PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE NEW SCWG AND RECOMMEND THAT THE US VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THIS GOAL IN THAT FORUM. END COMMENT. STREATOR

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